

September 30, 1983
Chinese

Index - Side A

0:00 Introduction

2:00 Mr. Chew grew up in Isleton, he tells about the people in town, where he lived, the Chinese-owned Bayside Cannery and its three branches, his father's role with the cannery.

4:50 Isleton Grammar School segregated the Japanese, Filipino and Chinese students from the Blacks and Whites. Integration occurred during World War II after the Japanese were interned.

6:35 Although his parents tried to keep the old culture, they also adopted many of the western ways; with this bicultural background, Mr. Chew was confused about America's treatment of the Japanese, he felt they were as Americans as he was.

9:20 Mr. Chew's mother is petite and appears demur but he tells of several occasions when she was not beyond taking the school officials to task when she felt they were wrong: ie, she felt her daughter should be able to wear pants to school on cold and rainy days.

11:30 Mr. Chew enlisted in the army at age 18, he tells of his military experiences including his frustrations seeing East-West conflict in China and the unreasonable demands of his white superiors.

24:25 Mr. Chew finished his education at UC-Berkeley and went on to Idaho State to get his pharmacy degree.

26:00 He tells of meeting his wife, the differences in their background in that she is a second generation Chinese-American and he a fourth generation.

Index - Side B

1:25 Mr. Chew and his wife have exposed their children to the Chinese folkways; when possible they have the children participate in the special holiday customs.

4:55 Even though he is working as a pharmacist, Mr. Chew has always been interested in and became an acupuncturist; he took his training in Taiwan.

6:20 Being one of the first acupuncturist in this town, Mr. Chew tells of the problems involved in getting the field recognized and practitioners licensed in California. He believes testing today should be conducted in English and not bilingual. Unfortunately, he feels being an American born acupuncturist has its problems, Chinese would prefer to go to a Chinese acupuncturist born in the Orient.

14:00 Mr. Chew tells of the changes he has observed within the Chinese community and although he is a member of the Chinese Benevolent Assn. (Chung Wah), he does not feel they are as community-oriented as they should be.

16:00 Even though he was born in America and attempts to stride both the Chinese and western cultures, Mr. Chew, at his age, tells of the difficulty living in harmony with both backgrounds; particularly during these times of uncertainty in values, religious pressures and politics.

23:00 Mr. Chew is currently a leader of the MANDARINS, the local Chinese Drum and Bugle Corp. He gives insight into the conflicting images Chinese Americans project today. Mr. Chew's awareness is acute because he is knowledgeable, conservative by nature, pragmatically Chinese and sensitive in the western way.